



Brownfields 2007 Grant Fact Sheet

Aiken County, SC

EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. On January 11, 2002, President George W. Bush signed into law the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. Under the Brownfields Law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

Community Description

Aiken County was selected to receive a brownfields assessment grant and a brownfields cleanup grant. Located in western South Carolina on the Savannah River, Aiken County (population 148,084) was the site of the South's first cotton manufacturing plant. Between the construction of that plant in 1846 and the early 1990s, numerous textile plants and industries located in the Horse Creek Valley region. Today, most of these mills have closed their doors, leaving behind large brownfields and few jobs. The median household income in some of the county's villages is two-thirds the state median. The county is targeting two sites in Clearwater. In the area where the sites are located, 19.2 percent of residents live below the poverty level. About 20 percent of Clearwater's 4,199 residents are minorities. Assessment and cleanup of the old textile



Assessment Grant

New 2007

\$200,000 for hazardous substances

EPA has selected Aiken County for a brownfields assessment grant. Hazardous substances grant funds will be used to conduct community outreach activities and perform Phase I and II environmental site assessments at the abandoned 65-acre Clearwater Finishing site.

Cleanup Grant

New 2007

\$200,000 for hazardous substances

EPA has selected Aiken County for a brownfields cleanup grant. Grant funds will be used to clean up the 26-acre Seminole Mills site at the intersection of Belvedere Road and Augusta Road in Clearwater. The site operated as a spun rayon fabrics plant for most of the 20th Century, and is contaminated with metals and polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons. Funds also will be used to develop a cleanup plan and conduct community outreach activities.

Contacts

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at: www.epa.gov/brownfields.

EPA Region 4 Brownfields Team
404-562-8792

<http://www.epa.gov/region4/waste/bf/index.htm>

Grant Recipient: Aiken County, SC
803-642-2012

The information presented in this fact sheet comes from the grant proposal; EPA cannot attest to the accuracy of this information. The cooperative agreement for the grant has not yet been negotiated. Therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.

plants will help restore community pride and stimulate economic growth. The county plans to reuse the sites for senior housing, commercial and office space, and greenspace.